



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC) Agenda Memo

TO: Paratransit Coordinating Council
FROM: Danielle Schmitz, Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Accessible Transportation Needs Assessment (ATNA)
Implementation Progress Update-Mobility Manager Status Update

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Accessible Transportation Needs Assessment (ATNA) study identifies barriers to mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities across Napa County and proposes strategies to enhance equitable and accessible transportation options. The plan was adopted by the NVTA Board in May.

NVTA staff has convened an Implementation Working Group (IWG) made up of decision-makers from multiple stakeholder organizations to work towards advancing strategies in the plan.

One of the six primary strategies identified under the ATNA was to establish a dedicated mobility manager. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is drafting guidance for a countywide mobility manager in each of the nine Bay Area counties. NVTA has provided input on the guidance and is advocating for funding for this designation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

BACKGROUND

Four key goals and eleven strategies associated with these goals were identified in the Accessible Transportation Needs Assessment. Six of the eleven goals were identified as high priority based on feedback from stakeholders, public outreach, survey data and associated priorities from other plans, such as the Napa Older Adults Assessment (NOAA). Each of the high priority strategies overlap with at least one of the following goals:

- Coordination: To collaborate and strengthen relationships and to make decisions on which organizations are best suited to lead
- Education: Educating Napa County's older adults and disabled residents about NVTA's transportation services to improve awareness and accessibility
- Funding: Securing grant funds and leveraging funding opportunities to meet the transportation needs of target populations
- Connectivity: Thoughtful planning of new transit connections, increasing affordability, and reducing physical barriers

One strategy in the six high-priority strategies is to establish a dedicated mobility manager and formalize an ongoing implementation committee. The ATNA Implementation Working Group is acting to advance ATNA plan strategies, including working towards establishing a county Mobility Manager. The strategy for each county to designate a Mobility Manager comes from Action 21 in the Transformation Action Plan Accessibility Initiatives.

Action 21 advances long-standing regional policy by formalizing mobility management functions at the county level. While mobility management has been a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) policy recommendation since 2007, implementation across the region has been uneven. Most counties perform some mobility management activities today; however, these functions are not always officially designated, consistently provided countywide, or fully coordinated with public transit services.

This action focuses on strengthening and standardizing mobility management by filling geographic and service gaps, particularly for populations that rely on coordinated transportation options. Establishing a universal set of best practices and standards will support more consistent service delivery while allowing counties flexibility in how functions are locally implemented. In addition, the action proposes a regional framework for accountability to guide local decision-making and measure progress over time.

Collectively, these efforts are intended to bolster existing county programs, improve coordination between local and regional partners, and create a more cohesive mobility management system that better supports access, efficiency, and equity across the region.

There are four main functions identified under the Action 21 framework for Mobility Managers. Several of these functions are part of NVTA's work as the local paratransit provider, others require cooperation from organization and other local agency partners.

- Information and Referral Services
- Travel Training
- Work within the ADA Eligibility Process
- Coordination and Reporting

Work through Connections, the Napa County Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) which launched in 2025 under a recommendation by the Napa Older Adults Assessment, is providing direct information and referral to a broad range of services for seniors and disabled populations, including transportation services. Multiple agencies have signed on as partners to support this effort. The ADRC system (funded by the California Department of Aging (CDA) is designed as a "no wrong door" mechanism for coordinating networks of programs and services to serve community members, especially those challenged with navigating complicated systems to receive needed services.

While the ADRC and NVTA provide a number of the core functions of a Mobility Manager, no single entity has full responsibility for managing and monitoring the systems, which MTC is seeking to implement under the Action 21 framework.

What process is MTC proposing to designate a County Mobility Manager?

- First: Hold Countywide Forums with MTC and local partners to build an understanding of efforts and to build consensus
- Next: Locally supported application for designation as countywide Mobility Manager-MTC evaluation
- Lastly: Review by MTC advisory groups and commission with designation for up to three years

Performance Metrics:

MTC is proposing four assessment categories, both qualitative and quantitative to measure performance which will be reviewed by local PCC and submitted to MTC bi-annually:

- Coordination-PCC/Transit Agency Advisory Committee/Regional Mobility Management Group
- Resource Inventory-Transportation programs/services and funding opportunities
- Program Participation-Information and referral/travel training/customer service satisfaction

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- Budget information-Fund sources/partnerships/staff resources/services performed/Expenditure analysis

Proposed Timeline:

- Winter/Spring- 2026-County Forums
- Summer 2026-Applicants request designation/MTC Committees and Commission consider designations
- Fall 2026-MTC/PCCs establish reporting periods and assessment

Funding

Currently, there is no dedicated funding source for a Mobility Manager and program through MTC. Potential fund sources:

- **FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities):** Caltrans received over \$52M in formula grants in late 2024 for buses, vans, and mobility management activities for seniors and people with disabilities, with local sub-awards.
- **SMART Grants (Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation):** A federal discretionary program under IIJA providing grants for smart technology projects, with \$54M awarded in late 2024 for Stage 1 projects. (It is uncertain whether this program will continue under a future authorization bill)
- **State Transit & Local Programs:** Programs like the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program that distributes federal funds for regional projects. However, the Napa County OBAG share of funding is very limited.

Fund Tracking:

- **Caltrans:** Monitor the California Grants Portal and [Caltrans 5310 page](#) for future calls.
- **Regional Agencies:** Work with MTC to advocate for dedicated funding in future program cycles.
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** Check their website for specific discretionary grant programs like SMART.

ATTACHMENTS

None